

13 May 1983

Office of Personnel Checklist

Social Security Legislation

Our working group today met with Staff Members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence: Rob Simmons, Jean Evans, Ed Levine, and Peter Sullivan.

During the course of our two-hour conference, we discussed in full all of the Agency's concerns flowing from Social Security coverage for workers coming into our Agency on 1 January 1984 and thereafter. Throughout, there was a full exchange, questions, reactions, and impressions.

Our summary assessment is that there is both understanding of our concerns and willingness to try to do something about them. One thing is clear, however. The political reality of pulling anyone out from under Social Security is stark and represents a major obstacle to our efforts. To avoid this particular obstruction, suggestions were made, e.g., keeping people under Social Security but administering the system internally. While there was understanding of the Agency's early retirement policy, some Staff Members felt that the security issues, i.e., dealing with the Social Security Administration, were a stronger argument than those of managing Agency personnel.

The questions of a Community position came up again. Simmons indicated, however, that there was some merit to the Agency's pursuing its proposal without broadening it to include the rest of the Community. It is clear that this question will arise during any forthcoming hearing.

It was left that Simmons, as Staff Director, would take some soundings within the Committee. After that he will be back in touch with us about strategy. He believes that we will probably proceed to a full Committee hearing on the basic proposal, which we have submitted to them.

What we believe we must now do is to develop some alternatives to our basic proposal to include a supplemental plan to achieve our ends of preserving early retirement and an alternative to administer internally Social Security coverage with an appropriate supplemental plan to avoid serious security issues.

Our meeting had the clear result of obtaining full support of Staffs for a supplemental system that would uniquely respond to CIA's needs.

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